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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

NEW SOVIET MISSILE TRANSPORTER-ERECTOR-LAUNCHER

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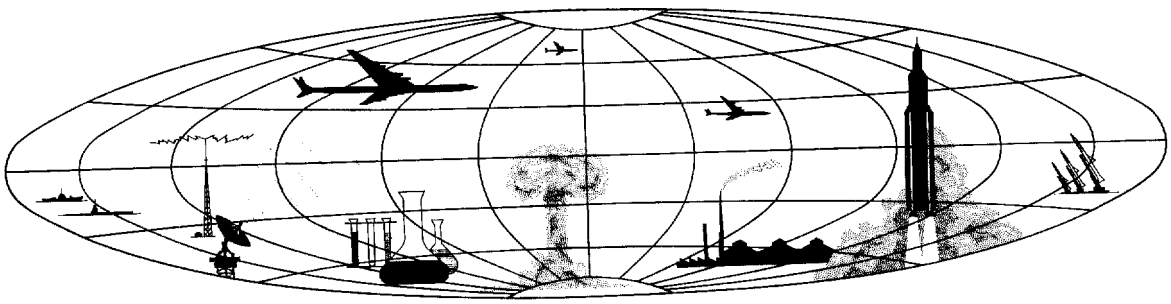
ARMY NAVY AIR FORCE CIA

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



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NEW SOVIET MISSILE TRANSPORTER-ERECTOR-LAUNCHER

In the Moscow October Revolution Parade of 7 November 1961, the Soviets displayed a new self-propelled, eight-wheeled, missile transporter-erector-launcher (Figure 1). The vehicle is considered to be an integrated weapons system, providing transport, environmental housing, and a launching platform for the missile.

With probably six of its eight wheels functioning as drive wheels, the transporter would have good road and limited cross-country mobility. Both the front and rear pairs of wheels probably steer, to facilitate turning. Hydraulic leveling jacks, blast shields, heavy-gage missile

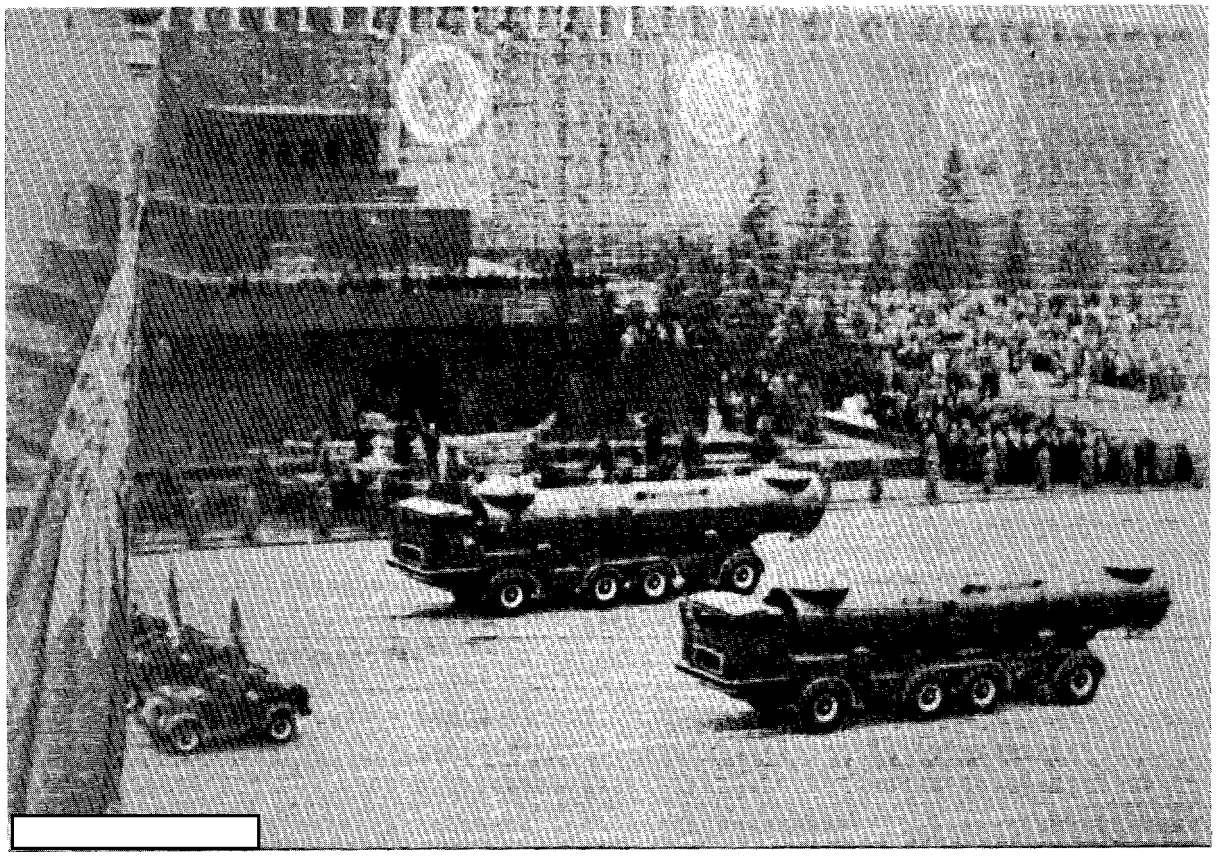

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FIGURE 1. NEW MISSILE TRANSPORTER-ERECTOR-LAUNCHER (7 November 1961).

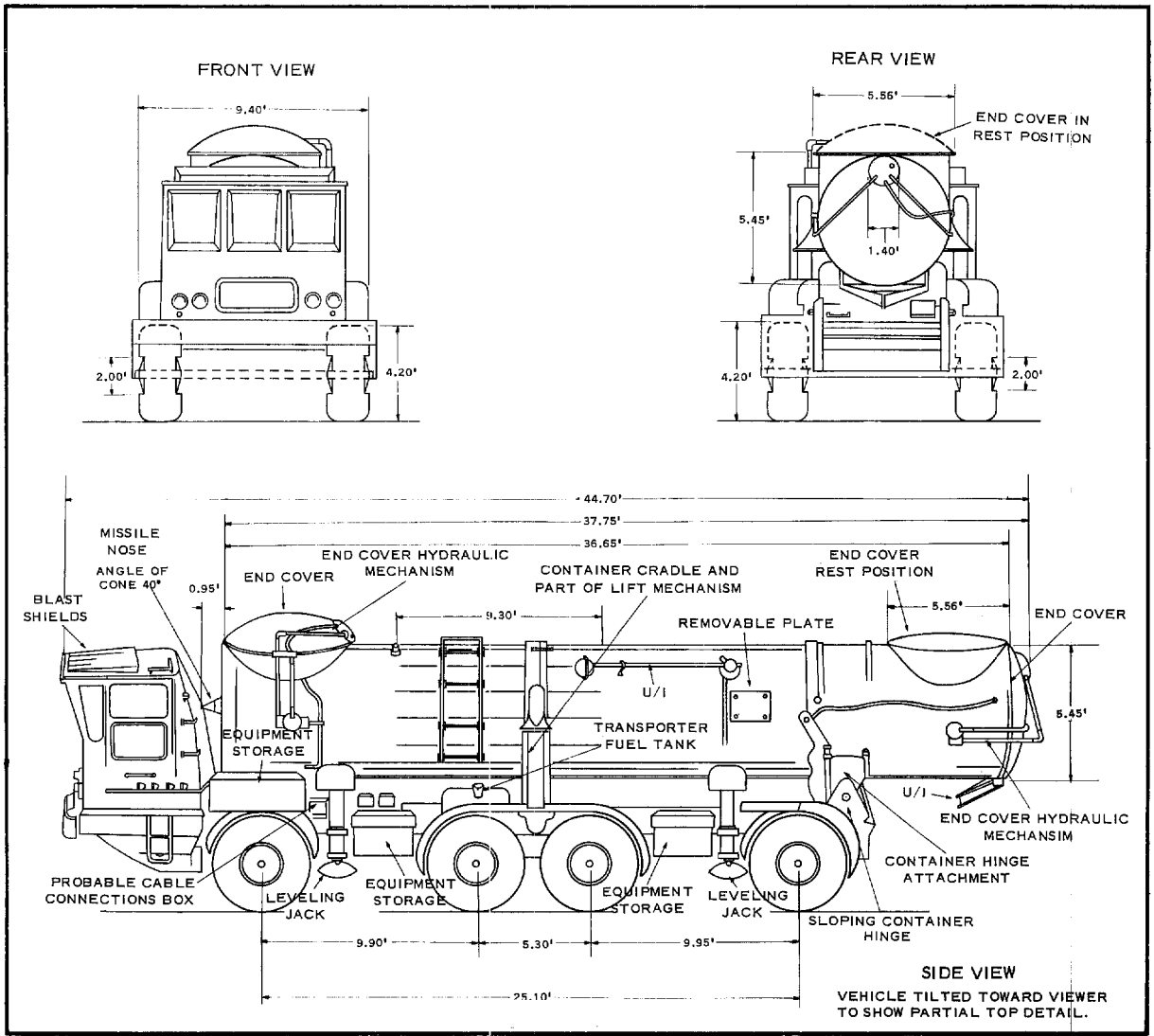

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FIGURE 2. DIMENSIONS AND COMPONENT PARTS OF THE VEHICLE.

container, hinge point, and elevating mechanism all indicate that the vehicle is used as a launch platform (Figure 2). When fully extended, the leveling jacks could lift the vehicle frame an additional 1.5 feet off the ground. Firing angles could vary between 10° and 55°. At the maximum angle of 55° the container would be aligned with the sloping container hinge (Figure 3).

The missile probably rests on its launching rail/rails within the container and is kept at a constant temperature and humidity, free from

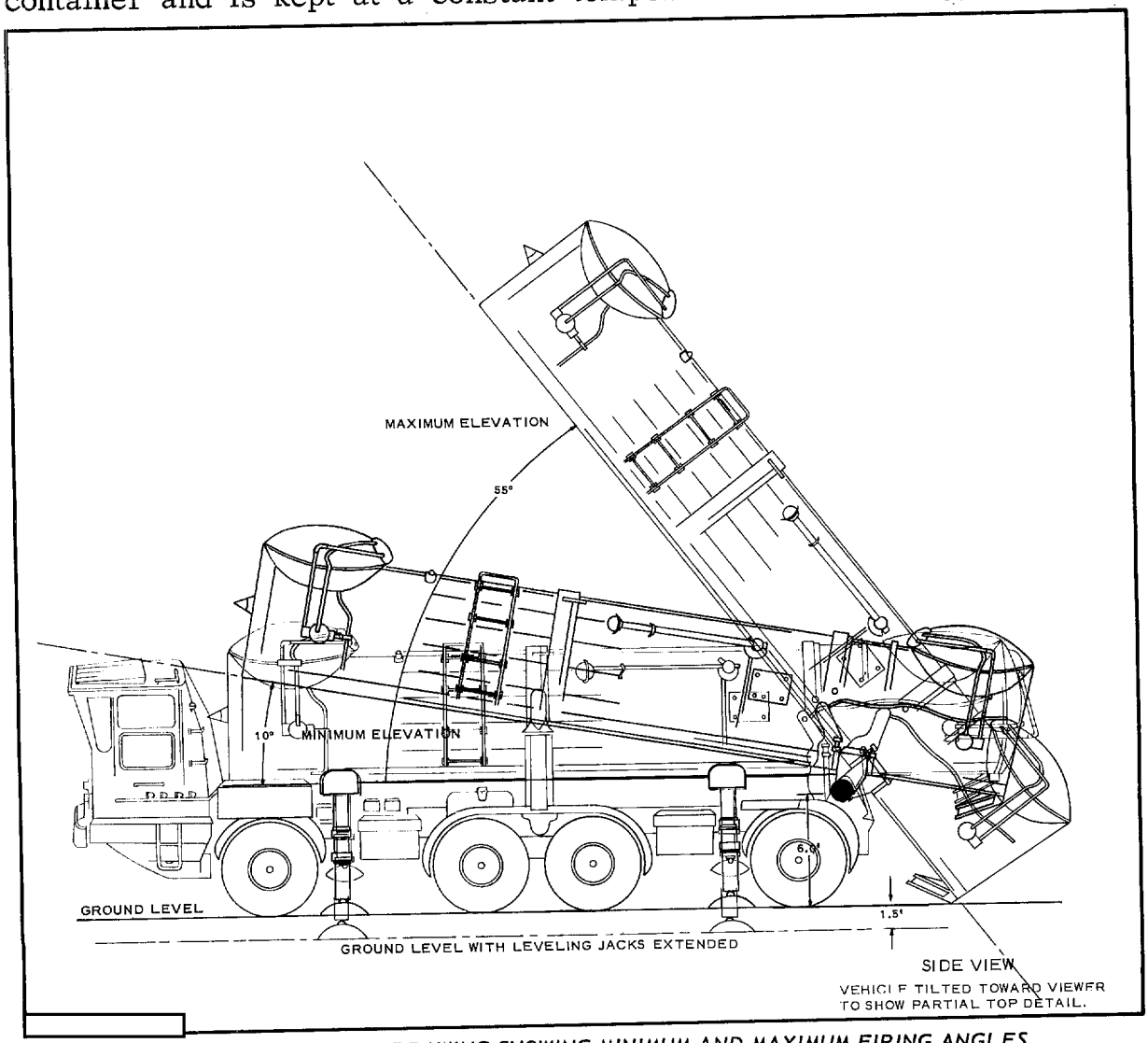

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FIGURE 3. SCHEMATIC DRAWING SHOWING MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM FIRING ANGLES.

dust and contamination. Before launching, both container end covers are rotated to their rest positions on top of the container. The rear cover would be removed first, and then the front cover, after the container had been elevated to clear the cab. There is no evidence of a container traversing mechanism to aim the missile along a precise firing azimuth. Therefore, it is reasonable to presume that the missile is a guided missile and not a FROG (free rocket over ground) type of missile. Further classification of the guided missile, as to whether it is solid- or liquid-propelled, a ballistic or cruise type, cannot be established with confidence from present photographic evidence.

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REFERENCES

REQUIREMENT

CIA. OSI/R-183/61

NPIC PROJECT

JN-318/61

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